

[Insert Title Here]
A screenplay by Sam Glidden

Characters

Dr. Schwartzinger

Dr. Schwartzinger is a fairly smart bioengineer who has recently fallen from legit work. He feels rejected and full of vengeance. He also just doesn't like people in general. How he hooked up with Marvin is a mystery, but the two become partners in crime.

Marvin

Marvin is a sort of Igor style henchman, at least in the beginning. He is slightly insane and lacks the ability to pick up on any subtle hints. He is also a misanthrope and evil in a goofy sort of way.

Mr. Harsnick

Mr. Harsnick the evil crime boss who hires Proth. He has no morals, but then again no one does in his line of work.

Proth

Proth is Mr. Harsnick's hired assassin sort of dude. However he will act very self motivated and the audience should not get the impression he is "under" someone else.

Marnie

Marnie is Proth's "significant other." She used to work with him, but no longer believes in that sort of underworld-type stuff and has "returned to the light." She therefore does not support Proth's work and looks for an out for him.

Security guards x2

more...?

ACT 1: THE THREAT...

Scene 1 – The theft

At a federal biomedical research facility in an undisclosed location...

An **office building**. Night? An indistinct van pulls up to the building, at a loading dock or something, and parks. Out of the van steps two guys, Dr. Schwartzinger first and then Marvin. Schwartzinger is wearing a lab coat of some kind, which he will wear throughout the movie. Marvin has something stupid on. Schwartzinger wipes his brow and then mumbles something to Marvin along the lines of "Got the stuff?" Marvin will nod and open the back of the van, pulling out a big white sack. He throws it over his shoulder. They head for door, Schwartzinger in lead.

Inside, a view of the door. Doorknob shakes like it is being picked. Suddenly door pops open, Marvin stumbles in. He puts away a paperclip. Dr. Schwartzinger enters, brushing off his lab coat.

They enter through second door. A security guard is sleeping in a chair. Marvin goes "shhhh." He pulls out a knife, gives a toothy grin and points to guard. Schwartzinger shudders and shakes

his head. He pulls out a little spray bottle from within his lab coat. He sneaks up to the guard and sprays it under his nose. Guard will lurch forward and cough, then pass out. Marvin will reseal him. The pair continue.

They come to a stairwell. Marvin points at, raises eye-brows. Dr. Schwartzinger mutters “lab 208” and nods. They proceed up.

Top of stairs. Marvin motions for Dr. Schwartzinger to stop, and Marvin will approach door leading to main hall. He looks through the little window. He sees a security guard standing against a wall, and Marvin quickly looks away. He then glances quickly and rebelliously at Schwartzinger, shoves the door open while pulling out his knife and rushes the guard. The guard, instantly alert, yanks out his gun and points it at Marvin. Marvin, however has closed in and grabs the guards wrists, shoving his hand upward and causing him to fire into the ceiling. The guard, however, has grabbed Marvin’s knife hand and is holding it back. The both make faces at each other, locked in inaction. Schwartzinger will at this point walk up and spray his little gas canister right into their faces. The both cough, gag, and pass out. Schwartzinger will laugh and kick Marvin or maybe wave his finger scoldingly at him.

Leaving Marvin, Schwartzinger moves down the hall and into **Lab 208**. The door is locked, but he jiggles it a little, looks at Marvin’s unconscious body, sighs, and pulls out a lock pick set. He picks it after a time.

Inside Lab 208 shot – Schwartzinger enters. He then does a sort of double take, leaves, and returns with Marvin’s bag. He moves over to a really big looking thing. (The “thing” will be determined as set provides). He proceeds to open up the “thing”, removes several canisters of “stuff”, and puts them in Marvin’s bag. He then shuts the thing and leaves.

He approaches Marvin, still lying on the floor unconscious, stops, and kneels down. He pulls out a jar of some cream type substance, opens it up, sniffs, makes a disgusted face, and puts it under Marvin’s nose. Marvin gets a whiff, his eyes fly open and he bolts up. He in breathing fast, but Schwartzinger ignores it and motions him to come on.

Exterior shot again – outside we see the van pulling away.

Scene 2 – A few days later...

A newspaper is shown, zoomed up on an article titled “Criminal Mastermind Steals Plague Sample.” Details: Authorities concerned, however public panic is not needed as the vaccines are currently available for the bubonic plague. Officials fear the use of the plague as a bioweapon... Camera zooms out from newspaper, showing Mr. Harsnick’s hands holding it. Camera then pans over to a door, moving as if it were Mr. Harsnick’s sight. Door opens, in steps Proth.

Proth

Good evening Mr. Harsnick. You have some work for me?

Mr. Harsnick

Ah yes... Tell me, Proth, have you read the newspaper today?

Proth

No, I don’t have time. My line of work can be very demanding.

Mr. Harsnick

Well, if you had, you would have heard about the break-in at the fed bioresearch building downtown. It appears some petty thief has run off with a sample of bubonic plague.

Proth

Why would they want a plague sample? The plague is easily preventable these days.

Mr. Harsnick

Yes, well, perhaps. It is preventable in its current form, yes. But, Proth, the newspaper does not reveal the whole story. Unbeknownst to perhaps everyone but my... sources, the sample was stolen by a Dr. Schwartzinger.

Proth

Dr. Schwartzinger... that name sounds vaguely familiar.

Mr. Harsnick

That is because several months ago Dr. Schwartzinger caused quite a stir among the scientific community. He was caught fabricating experimental results and pretending to have a complete cure for cancer. Anyway the science junkies excommunicated him and he hasn't been heard from since. However, he was in his day considered a brilliant bioengineer.

Proth

And now with a plague sample...

Mr. Harsnick

I am no biologist, Proth, but I do believe someone of Dr. Schwartzinger's caliber could engineer the plague to be resistant to modern vaccines and medicines. And that is exactly what I think the good doctor will try to do. A weapon such as that would be quite powerful in the right hands.

Proth

And you, I take it, want me to liberate this weapon from the doctor.

Mr. Harsnick

Exactly, Proth. This is why I enjoy hiring you. My normal henchmen would still be standing in a cloud of their own incompetence and wondering what a "plague" was.

Proth

(chuckles) I will get you the plague.

Mr. Harsnick

Excellent. Give Dr. Schwartzinger a few more days to bring his work into completion. However, make sure you steal it before he does anything rash with it. Don't worry if it is not quite ready; I can have people finish his work.

Proth

And the doctor himself?

Mr. Harsnick

I'll leave that at your discretion. Just make sure Dr. Schwartzinger won't be talking to anyone.

Proth

It will be done. Now, about my contract....

Fade out. Scene ends

Scene 3 – Schwartzinger’s House

Marvin and Dr. Schwartzinger pull up in the van to a house. They get out. Marvin is carrying the white sack.

Dr Schwartzinger

Welcome, Marvin, to my home. The lab where I will be working is in the basement. You can stay here if you want.

Marvin

Uh... sure, doctor Schwartzinger.

Dr Schwartzinger

I thought as much. I’ve set up a cot in the basement. You can sleep there.

They step inside.

Dr Schwartzinger

If you don’t mind my asking, Marvin, where were you living before this?

Marvin

Well, uh, I had some friends, that let me stay with them for a while, but, they uh, threw me out.

Dr Schwartzinger

Why?

Marvin

I, uh, started a fire in their kitchen. There were some cockroaches, and I hate ‘em, so I tried to burn them out, but then the wall lit on fire, and there was smoke, and someone called the fire department, then my friend came home, and kicked me out.

Dr Schwartzinger

Well, that’s... very unfair of him. (*quickly*) Just, Marvin, don’t worry about anything like that in my house. Just tell me about any cockroaches and I’ll take care of them. Don’t, uh, try to deal with them yourself.

Marvin

Rrrr, cockroaches, nasty things, I will kill them.

Dr Schwartzinger

No, Marvin, let me handle them.

Marvin

But –

Dr Schwartzinger

(pointing onward) This is the basement, Marvin. Let me show you your bed.

Marvin

Where will you be?

Dr Schwartzinger

Here, most of the time. I'll be making our plague, remember? If you mean where will I sleep, it will be... *(stops, looks at Marvin suspiciously)* ...upstairs somewhere. Why do you want to know?

Marvin

(evil grin) In case I find any cockroaches.

Dr Schwartzinger

(blinks, confused) Yes, right, yes. I'll be in the bedroom upstairs.

Marvin

Where does this go? *(meaning the white sack he is still holding)*

Dr Schwartzinger

(realizes what Marvin is talking about) Oh, yes. Put that, carefully, over on that table. *(He rubs his hands together in anticipation.)* It's time to get started.

Fade out. End scene.

Scene 4 – Proth calls Marnie

There is a car, a 1984 Jaguar, black, all classy looking, freshly waxed if possible, parked on the side of a street somewhere. Inside is Proth. His voice is heard. He is talking on a cell phone.

Proth

Hey, how'er you doing.

Marnie

Hey Proth honey. Did you just get a new job?

Proth

Yeah, how'd you guess? Old Mr. Harsnick just hired me.

Marnie

Proth, you always call me right after you get some work. I don't know why, you know I hate what you do. How many people do you have to kill this time?

Proth

No, Marnie, now wait. You know we both need money and this is best way to get it. I don't have to kill anyone this time necessarily. I just have to steal a sample of plague.

Marnie

(suspiciously) Does this have something to do with what I read in the papers?

Proth

Sort of. Some nut, Dr. Schwartzinger, stole a plague sample that he plans to engineer into a disease that could kill us all. Or at least that's what my employer thinks. So I'm going to steal it to stop him. See, I'm almost a good guy here.

Marnie

No, no your not. We both know that whatever Mr. Harsncik has in mind is worse than what Dr. Schwart-whatever is going to do.

Proth

Dr. Schwartzinger. Well, I don't care, we've had this conversation before. As long as Mr. Harsnick is offering such good work I'm going to do it. When he stops, I'll stop, O.K?

Camera is on Marnie's face. She pauses before saying anything. Her eyes get squinty and she obviously has an evil thought.

Marnie

(pause) Well, wait a minute, you're doing this alone, aren't you? The paper said the theft must have taken at least two guys to pull off. This could be dangerous.

Proth

I've done this before. I'm a professional; I can handle everything.

Marnie

Don't get so macho. You remember what happened last time there were two?

Proth

Yes yes I remember. Alright, you want to come along? Even though you try to hold yourself above me and hate my work, you're just as good at it as I am. You try to be a normal, law-abiding citizen but you sure have the skills they don't.

Marnie

Oh shut up. I can't unlearn the stuff even though I've changed. But fine, I'll help you this time. But I want you to promise this is the last job.

Proth

You know I can't promise anything like that. But if you want to come I wouldn't mind at all.

Marnie

All right, Proth. But I'm coming to make sure you don't get killed, not because I like what you're doing.

Proth

Yeah, sure whatever. I'll come pick you up this afternoon.

Cut to black. Scene ends.

Scene 4B – Pressure on Mr. Harsnick

Back to Mr. Harsnick's office. He is playing pool with himself. The phone rings.

Mr. Harsnick

Yes?... Oh, hello Mr. Ruthammer... Nice talking with you again too... What – Oh yes, I remember our bet... (*he grows nervous*) The results are in?... And you, I, but that's impossible! I can't... What? No, of course not, I would never try and cheat against a man such as yourself, Mr. Ruthammer... (*very nervous*) I assure you, I wouldn't... Yes, yes, thank you... Your confidence is well founded, Mr. Ruthammer... What?! In two days? I can't possibly get that much in two days!... But I don't... I understand, Mr. Ruthammer, and I assure you I did nothing of the sort...

You found what...? Oh, uh... Thank you, Mr. Ruthammer, your generosity will not be forgotten... But I still can't... You know what, Mr. Ruthammer, I have something better for you than that money... No no, now hear me out. How would you like to have an incredibly powerful weapon? It just so happens I have access to a little sample of the bubonic plague... Yes, yes, exactly what you read in the newspaper... But, Mr. Ruthammer, what those imbeciles fail to realize is that you can make a plague that *can* kill people... Yes, one that no current antibiotics work against... Ah, you begin to understand, Mr. Ruthammer. And so how about we forget that little sum between us, and I'll get you that virus in two days... Yes, trust me... No, you can this time, I assure you... Well, if you don't have it in two days then you can have my life, Mr. Ruthammer... Uh, don't take that too literally... Yes, you will have it. Goodbye, Ruthammer.

Mr. Harsnick hangs up, and sits down, nervously thinking.

Scene 5 – Schwartzinger's lab

The lab is shown again. Dr. Schwartzinger is hard at work. Marvin is sitting on his bed playing with a bouncing ball racket thing. A paddle-ball or whatever they are called. It is going think-thunk-thunk like a drum.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Marvin, how much longer or you going to be doing that? I can't concentrate!

Marvin ignores him and keeps going. Think-thunk-thunk.

Dr. Schwartzinger

(*looks at Marvin, sighs*) Do you even know what I'm doing here? This is not a cakewalk!

Marvin continues to ignore him and doesn't stop.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Look, I'll explain it to you. Let me see if I can reduce it to something your small mind could understand. (*He pauses to see if Marvin reacts to that, but Marvin pays no attention. He continues.*) I am taking that plague sample we stole, Marvin, and turning it into something unstoppable. The world thinks the plague is no longer a threat, but I will show them! (*he grins*)

Still **Marvin** says nothing, or at least nothing but the rhythmic think-thunk-thunk of the paddle ball.

Dr. Schwartzinger

(*trying to impress Marvin*) I am taking the plague and modifying it to be resistant to all modern

antibiotics. It's really quite simply, Marvin. All you do is take a little bit of the plague bacteria, grow it in one of these Petri dishes, and add a very small amount of the antibiotic. That will kill most of it, but the few that remain will be resistant. I am doing this for a few generations, and, presto, the plague will be untreatable. *(He pauses, but Marvin is unfazed)*. I will also be doing the same thing but instead of antibiotics, I'll use human antibodies; the antibodies that a plague vaccination would produce. That way, the plague is neither preventable nor treatable. With this, Marvin, I will crush my enemies!

Thunk-thunk-thunk.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Are you even listening?! We can bring humanity to its knees with this! We can have anything!... *(Long pause – Marvin apparently is not listening. Thunk-thunk-thunk.)* Where did you get that thing anyway? Marvin!

Marvin

(Snaps out of it, stops playing with the paddle ball.) Oh, uh, hello doctor. Were you talking to me?

Dr. Schwartzinger

Aaarrggg, Marvin, I was only explaining how we could destroy the world if we wanted to!

Marvin

Oh, well, good. I hate people. They are all so... empty.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Empty? Marvin, that doesn't make any sense. But don't worry; I was thinking we could use this to check overpopulation. People will respect me if the Schwartzinger plague could strike them at any minute!

Marvin

...The *Schwartzinger* plague?

Dr. Schwartzinger

Well, yes. I made it after all.

Marvin

(eyes get squinty and angry) But I stole it.

Dr. Schwartzinger

You, Marvin, if I recall correctly spent most of the time unconscious.

At this Marvin gets up and starts walking ominously toward the doctor.

Doctor Schwartzinger

(quickly, slightly nervous) But don't worry, Marvin, sit down. People will know you were behind it too. We can change the name if you really want.

Marvin stops and then goes back to his bed. He sits, pauses, smiles, picks up his paddle ball and

starts playing with it again. Thunk-thunk-thunk. Dr. Schwartzinger flinches, but says nothing. He goes back to work, a little disgruntled.

Fade out. Scene ends.

Scene 6 – The next day.

Proth and Marnie are in the Jaguar.

Proth

(frustrated) Dammit I can't find him.

Marnie

Well, you've tried all your usually things?

Proth

Yes, and all my contacts, my lists, the goddamn police even don't know where Schwartzinger is!

Marnie

The police? You asked the police?

Proth

Well, er... someone inside looked it up for me.

Marnie

(nods) Ah. *(gingerly)* Have you tried the phone book?

Proth

The phone book? Why would Schwartzinger be at his house?

Marnie

Well, obviously, where else is he going to be?

Proth

I don't know, that's why I can't find him. Somewhere where he has access to all sort of high tech lab stuff.

Marnie

Well, seeing as how he's been kick out by the lab-frequenting community, don't you think the only place he might have lab equipment is in his home?

Proth

How would it have gotten there?

Marnie

(patiently) Well, he did work as a bioengineer for a long time, surely he could have taken stuff home with him.

Proth

All right, Marnie, you win. We'll try the phone book. And it better work, as Dr. Schwartzinger

could be finished any day now.

The jaguar drives away.

ACT 2: IT GETS INTERESTING

Scene 7 – Plague

The setting: Dr. Schwartzinger's House, Afternoon. The doctor and Marvin are in the basement.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Marvin, the time at last has come. The plague is almost ready.

Marvin

Good, doctor. Let me see.

Dr. Schwartzinger

There isn't much to see. The final generation is in this flask here.

Marvin

Ooooo. (Walks over to flask.) This will kill people?

Dr. Schwartzinger

Yes, Marvin. More people than you can imagine, if we want.

Marvin

(Laughs and rubs hands together.) I think we want.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Now let's not be hasty. We can use this to get all sorts of money and things. We can control people with this.

Marvin

I don't want to control people. I want to kill them and finally be alone from them.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Relax Marvin. When you see what you can get from *not* using this plague, you will change your mind.

Marvin

(pauses) But why did we make the plague if we're not going to use it?

Dr. Schwartzinger

We are, just not as the *plague*. We are going to use it as a weapon.

Marvin

I want to use it as the plague.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Marvin, just wait. You'll see. Now stay here for a minute, I have to go get something. *(He leaves, going upstairs.)*

Marvin watches him go. Then he hobbles over to the flask where the plague is. He picks it up, examining it. He shakes it. Finally he pauses, and then opens it slightly and sniffs. He coughs explosively and snaps the bottle shut.

Suddenly Dr. Schwartzinger returns. He is holding a bottle of champagne.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Marvin! (*shocked and frightened*) What are you doing!?! Did you open that!?! Put it down!

Marvin

(*Coughing again but trying to stifle it. He quickly speaks.*) No no. I did nothing! I didn't open it!
(*He puts the flask down*)

Dr. Schwartzinger

(*Stares at Marvin for a long time, mouth quivering, not sure what to believe. Finally he speaks.*)

Are you sure you didn't open it?

Marvin

(*Gaining confidence*) No, no. I didn't! I was just looking. Is it bad to open?

Dr. Schwartzinger

(*Now angry*) How imbecilic can you be!?! If you had opened it, you would have released the plague on us all!

Marvin says nothing.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Well, look, to celebrate I got us some champagne. You like champagne, right?

Marvin

(*Hesitantly*) Yeah, sure.

Dr. Schwartzinger

(*Relieved; you can see the tension leaving the room*) Alright then! I'll open it.

Cut to black. End Scene.

Scene 8 – Meanwhile...

We see Marnie and Proth in the Jaguar, which has suddenly turned dark blue and into a 1985 model. They are on the road outside Dr. Schwartzinger's house.

Proth

Well, here's Dr. Schwartzinger's house. You really think he's there?

Marnie

I don't know. It's worth a shot.

Proth

Well, I guess we should park out here somewhere and sneak up with a little stealth, just in case.

That is, of course, if you're coming with me; you could stay here with the car.

Marnie

Yeah, I could. But I wouldn't want you to get hurt, would I?

Proth

(chuckles) No, of course not. If I got hurt I couldn't keep doing this sort of work.

Marnie

Shut up. I should make you stop after this.

Proth

I'm not even going to ask how you would that.

Marnie

You don't think I could, do you? Well, I'll show you, I'm going to end this once and for all.

Proth

Sure, sure you will, Marnie.

Marnie

Oh be quiet. Or we going to get this plague before Dr. Schwartzinger kills off half the population or not?

Proth

I was about to ask you the same thing.

He parks the car by the side of the road.

Proth

Will you be wanting a gun, misses I-don't-approve-of-this-sort-of-thing?

Marnie

Yes, I will, mister I-enjoying-risking-my-neck-for-some-crazing-raving-crime-boss—

Proth

I thought so. If I remember correctly the [insert gun type here] was your best friend.

Marnie

(snatches the gun from his hand, then, sort of snidely, says) Thank you very much. And I suppose you'll be using your old [insert other gun type here]?

Proth

Of course. I just cleaned it yesterday.

Marnie

Well, then, let's go.

Proth

After you.

They exit the Jag, and proceed up the driveway to Schwartzinger's house.

Scene 9 – The fun finally begins

Dr. Schwartzinger and Marvin. They are drinking champagne, having a toast and whatnot. Suddenly they hear the squeak of an opening door.

Cut to: Proth and Marnie. Proth has just opened the door with a credit card. Marnie will make a derogatory comment on how Proth went to all the trouble to unlock the door silently, only to have it squeak loudly when opened. Anyway with this mistake they quietly run in, guns ready.

At this point, the doctor and Marvin will slowly come up from the basement with guns of their own. A **gunfight** will develop throughout the house, as they try to stalk one another. Make it long and dramatic. At some point near the end, Dr. Schwartzinger is shot in the leg. Marvin will have gone down to the basement to retrieve the virus. Despite the doctor's injury, they both still manage to escape to outside the house with the virus in the white sac.

Marvin will then abandon the doctor. Schwartzinger will tell him to make a break for the car with the virus, and Marvin will do just that, but neglect to come back for doc. Instead he peels out and drives away.

Proth and Marnie will then appear behind Doctor Schwartzinger. His injury and Marvin's abandonment defeats him, and **he surrenders**. Proth ties him up while Marnie gets the Jag. Proth will even be so nice as to put a tourniquet on Schwartzinger's bleeding leg. Marnie gets back with the car.

Marnie

Hurry – I saw Marvin go up the road, but it's a dead end! We may be able to intercept him back coming down!

They throw Dr. Schwartzinger into the trunk, and peel out down the driveway. Marvin comes flying down the road, this time going the right way. The jaguar pulls onto the road, giving chase.

Scene 10 – Really Tricky Car Chase

Proth and Marnie are in the Jag. Marnie is driving. Marvin is driving Schwartzinger's vehicle in front of them.

Proth

Keep it steady! I'm going up through the roof.

Marnie

Be careful.

Proth

Don't drive too close to him, in case he stops in a hurry. Hehe.

Proth takes out a machine gun/shotgun/something big from a gun case he had in the back seat. He pops open the sunroof and pokes through, with the gun. He starts firing madly at Marvin's car.

Marvin will swerve around as much as possible to avoid shots. However, the back of the car is

getting nailed pretty good.

Suddenly Marvin turns hard right into the forest (which is along the side of the road). Proth and Marnie pull up and stop. It turns out there was an old logging road going back, and Marvin took it.

Proth

(Coming down from sunroof) Damn. We can't follow him in this thing.

Marnie

Well, at least we go the doc. I suppose you want to go after Marvin on foot?

Proth

(thinks) Nah, who knows how far back this thing goes. How about we pay a visit to Mr. Harsnick and see if getting the doctor is good enough?

Marnie

Sounds good to me.

They drive away.

Scene 11 – Goodbye, Mr. Harsnick

We see Mr. Harsnick's lair. The desk, the pool table, dimly light, smoky? etc... Mr. Harsnick is playing pool, apparently with himself. Camera focused on pool balls, etc. Then the phone rings. Mr. Harsnick will slowly make his way over to it and pick up.

Mr. Harsnick

Yes. Mm-hmmm. Excellent. Well, send them right in.

A door opens, and Proth followed by Marnie step in.

Mr. Harsnick

(mildly surprised) Marnie. I haven't seen you in a while.

Marnie

(tension) There's a reason for that.

Mr. Harsnick

Yes, quite. Unlike Proth here, you're too good for my business.

Proth

Now now. Mr. Harsnick, I bring good news.

Mr. Harsnick

(turns towards Proth) Excellent. You have the virus?

Proth

Well, not quite. But we have something just as good – Dr. Schwartzinger himself.

Mr. Harsnick

What? You don't have the virus?

Proth

But we have the doctor. Same dice. He made the virus.

Mr. Harsnick

(angrily) No no, you incompetent! I want the virus! Where is it?

Proth

Oh, some stupid assistant ran off with it. But the doc can fix you up with a new one.

Mr. Harsnick

Aaaarrrrgggggg! I need it now! Who knows how long it'll take to make another!

Proth

Jesus, what's the rush?

Mr. Harsnick

Nevermind that, just get me the virus, you idiots! Is it Marnie, is she slowing you down? I can take care of that.

Proth

Don't you touch her.

Marnie

Harsnick, you couldn't lay a finger on me.

Mr. Harsnick

Marnie, I—

Proth

Forget it, Harsnick, she's not the problem. We'll get you your damn virus when we get around to it.

Mr. Harsnick

Proth, get out of here, and bring me my virus by tomorrow, or I'll take the cash I was going to pay you with and put a bounty on you *and* your girlfriend's head.

Marnie

You think you can scare us, you little—

Proth

Harsnick, you'll get your virus. Marnie, lets get out of here.

They slam the door on their way out.

Mr. Harsnick stands, alone, breathing heavily. He wipes his brow. He walks over to the pool table, and picks up the eight ball. His hands are shaking like crazy. He paces around a few times, then walks over to the phone and picks it up.

Mr. Harsnick

Jack, would you call Mr. Ruthammer for me, and tell him I'll be one more day on my payment. *(pause)* Yes, I know. *(pause)* Well, assure him he will be paid as agreed. Tell him I am in control, and the payment *will* arrive tomorrow. *(pause)* Yes, Jack, I'll be O.K. Just call Mr. Ruthammer. Thank you.

He hangs up. He then gets out his pool stick and begins powdering the end. Over and over.

Suddenly the door opens and Marnie steps in. Mr. Harsnick whirls around.

Mr. Harsnick
Marnie, what –

Marnie
Goodbye, Mr. Harsnick.

She pulls out a gun and shoots him, twice. He falls, dead. Immediately after that Proth comes running in.

Proth
Marnie, what are you doing!? ... You killed him. Dammit, Marnie, now what?

Marnie
I did it for your own good, Proth. Who knows what would have happened even if we had gotten the virus by tomorrow?

Proth
Well, it doesn't matter now, I guess. Let's get out of here. Someone must have heard the shots.

Marnie
(slowly) Yeah.

She puts the gun away. They turn, and leave.

Fade out.

ACT 3: IT CONCLUDES IN A SOMEWHAT CLIMACTIC AND SUSPENSEFUL MANNER

Scene 12 – More brilliant dialogue

In the Jag sit Proth and Marnie. The car is not moving, rather, it is parked on some curb. Neither speaks for a few moments. Then:

Proth
So what were you thinking?

Marnie
Proth, couldn't you see this was only going to get worse and worse? I got us out while I still could.

Proth

By killing Mr. Harsnick!

Marnie

Well, yeah, he was the root of the problem. Didja ever think about what would happen after we got the virus for him? What he would do with it? Use it to threaten god knows what! And what if he ever pushed it too far, and came close to unleashing that thing? Or worse, sold it to someone ever more insane who *would* use it? Neither of us knows how deadly the thing could be, Proth. It wasn't worth the risk.

Proth

But it was worth killing my employer? Couldn't we have talked about this beforehand a little, and maybe then we could have just destroyed the virus ourselves, and not have killed Mr. Harsnick?

Marnie

And then what? You know if we did that he'd hate us. You think you're the only dumb monkey he has to send after people he hates?

Proth

Yeah, well Marnie, now that you've killed him I'm sure there are some people who are going to take offense.

Marnie

They don't know it was me or you. I've already gotten rid of the gun. The police won't care that he's dead, and no one else has the resources to track us.

Proth

But you're forgetting one thing. Now, instead of Mr. Harsnick who we know about having the virus, some insane nut is running through the woods outside town with it! How is that better?

Marnie

It's not. Yet. We obviously have to find him.

Proth

Well jeez Marnie, if we were going to go to all the work to find the virus anyway, why the hell didn't you wait until after Mr. Harsnick paid us to shoot him?!

Marnie

Because then it would be too late! Weren't you listening to anything I've said?

Proth

Yes I was. But you don't seem to understand that we have this system called capitalism here, and to survive in "capitalism" you need money.

Marnie

And that's all you ever think about.

Proth

Damn right it is, since you never do. I have to.

Marnie

Well I don't see why it matters, since with your plan we all die from the plague anyway!

Proth

Jesus, fine, we'll get the stupid sample. And then I think I'll sell it.

Marnie

Like hell you will. But you know what Proth, forget that. Let's just concentrate on finding it first.

[pause]

Proth

(sigh) Fine. How do you propose we start?

Marnie

Well, let's ask Dr. Schwartzinger.

Camera on Proth, who opens his door. Exterior shot, Proth and Marnie get out of the Jaguar and walk around to the trunk. They pop it open. Close up of Dr. Schwartzinger, who unfolds his way out, painfully because of his wounded leg.

Dr. Schwartzinger

God, I was about to die in there. What are you trying to do to me?

Proth

(coolly) Shut up, doctor. How's the leg?

Dr. Schwartzinger

(coldly) Bad. Very bad. I need to get to a hospital.

Proth

(sarcasm:) Oh, uh, I'm sorry, but it looks as though we have to get back someone's plague before we all die.

Dr. Schwartzinger

I don't know who you are, but if you hadn't have barged in like that, Marvin wouldn't have bolted and I would still have the virus.

Marnie

Yeah, in your safe hands.

Dr. Schwartzinger

My hands are a lot safer than that buffoon's. He's a physco. You have no idea. I think I caught him trying to eat the virus.

Proth

(skeptically) Eat it?

Dr. Schwartzinger

Well, sniff it anyway. It doesn't matter. Where'd you chase him off to anyway?

Proth

We were hopping you'd know. He hightailed down some logging road in that SUV of yours. We couldn't follow.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Well, then its no problem. He'll just die back there and the plague sample will sit there until the virus expires.

Marnie

You mean to say he won't leave the woods?

Dr. Schwartzinger

Like I said, he's an idiot. Where else is he going to go? He'll be too scared to go back to my place and as far as I know he doesn't have anywhere else. And he'll probably think you're guarding the way out of the woods, which you would be if *you* weren't idiots too.

Proth

Hey, we had better things to do then watch some physco camp out.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Well, it doesn't matter. Let me go.

Proth

Not so fast. You think we're just going to leave the plague back there?

Dr. Schwartzinger

What do I care? I've told you all I know.

Proth

You care because we care, doc.

Marnie

Yeah, we not going to just sit by and let your little friend kill off the world.

Dr. Schwartzinger

(more sarcasm) Oh, I see. You're going to save the world. Isn't that nice? If only everyone had your sense of morals. Well, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to go hid in my basement while you two superheroes save humanity. You guys are sooooo noble.

He starts to hobble away (leg wound). Proth swiftly kicks him right where he was shot. Dr. Schwartzinger falls to the ground, clutching his leg and gasping in pain.

Proth

Maybe you should stick along, maybe some of our goodness will rub off on you. Can't hurt to try, can it? *(smiles)*

Marnie bends down to pick up the doctor. "Here, help me," she says to Proth. He bends down, and they both lift the doctor up by the shoulders. Dr. Schwartzinger looks a little confused. Then Proth and Marnie throw him backwards back in to the trunk.

Dr. Schwartzinger

No, let me out!

They slam the door on him.

Marnie

(in mirth) You know Proth; I would have a hard time treating that guy like slime if I wasn't doing it for such a good cause.

Proth

Remember Marnie, we're only doing it to save the world.

They get into the Jag.
Scene ends.

Scene 13 – Into the woods

Shows some shots of Jag driving?

Anyway Proth and Marnie drive up to the place where Marvin drove off into the woods. They are still in the car, pulling up.

Proth

So how far do you think he would have gone?

Marnie

I don't know. But this road can't go back forever.

Proth

You wanna walk it?

Marnie

Sure.

Proth parks the Jag by the side of the road. They get out.

Proth

Aw, dang-nabbing. I left the guns in the trunk with Schwartzinger.

Marnie

You don't think he could have found them, do you?

Proth

Him? No.

Proth walks back and pops the trunk. Inside is Schwartzinger, sort of smashed in and looking very uncomfortable. He doesn't get out his time.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Owwwww. Jesus. You going to let me go now?

Proth

Naw, sorry old man. Just gotta grab our guns.

Dr. Schwartzinger

What? Where?

Marnie

(reaches into trunk by Schwartzinger's feet and pulls out two pistols, same models as before)
Here.

Dr. Schwartzinger

God dammit, you mean I could have gotten those guns?

Proth

Yep.

Proth slams the trunk closed on Schwartzinger. Schwartzinger gives a yelp of pain. Proth and Marnie start loading their guns.

Marnie

So when are we going to let him go?

Proth

After we get Marvin. I don't want him pissing in the back of my car.

Marnie

God, I didn't think of that; how long you think he can hold it for?

Proth

Well he's only been in there for two hours. Even *you* can hold it for that long.

Marnie

(sarcastically) Ha ha. It's your car.

Proth

Yeah, let's make this fast.

Proth and Marnie head off into the woods down after Marvin. Camera pans back to the trunk of the Jag. Slammed between the door and the trunk are Schwartzinger's fingers. The fingers wiggle, and then the trunk pops open. Schwartzinger grabs his fingers in pain, holding them for a few minutes. Then he looks around and gets out.

Scene 14 – Finale

Proth and Marnie are wandering back along the trail, with some caution and whatnot. Guns out, yada yada. They approach a clearing, and looking from behind some bushes or a big tree they spot Marvin's wheels. Marvin, however, is conspicuously absent. With a few brief words, they agree to split up, circling around the clearing from both sides.

Camera on Marnie. She is sneaking around, gun out. She sees not much. Basically we waste film in a suspenseful manner.

Cut to Proth. He's sneaking around exactly like Marnie. "Jaws" music in background (not really). Suddenly Marvin jumps out with his gun and points and Proth, shooting bam-bam-

bam-bam, but missing, since he's leaping out and firing wildly. Proth turns and fires on him, hitting him in the stomach. He falls as Marnie, having heard the shots, come running up into the scene.

Cut to Dr. Schwartzinger. He is hobbling along through the woods, and comes up upon the white sack hidden at the base of a tree. Then he hears gunshots exactly like the ones that just occurred in the last shot. He picks up the sack and begins to run (as fast as he can in his current condition). He pulls out the flask with the plague and sheds the sack.

Back to Proth and Marnie. They walk up to Marvin, who is lying on the ground clutching his stomach where he was shot. Blood is coming out. Suddenly:

Proth

Look! (*points*)

He and Marnie whirl to look, and the Camera shows Dr. Schwartzinger running, dropping the sack.

Proth

Let's go!

Marnie

What about him? (*meaning Marvin*)

Proth

(*begins to run, pulling Marnie*) Forget him, he's not going anywhere.

Camera back to Dr. Schwartzinger. Still he runs, flask clutched in his arms. Naturally, it being the woods and all, he is stumbling and tripping over branches, logs, etc. He looks over his shoulder to see Proth and Marnie. He swears (PG-13 type) under his breath.

At this point the script must get vague, as the actual setting is not yet determined. Anyway Dr. Schwartzinger does not make it much further before Proth and Marnie catch up. He is cornered.

Desperately, the Doctor holds out the flask at arms length.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Don't shoot! It'll break open!

Proth and Marnie stop, guns aimed at Dr. Schwartzinger, about twenty feet away from him.

Dr. Schwartzinger

Don't shoot. We'll all die.

Marnie

(*whispers to Proth*) Do we believe him?

Proth

I don't—

Proth stops mid sentence for **Marvin** suddenly crawls out from behind a tree or log behind the

doctor. Marvin is wounded, but still has his gun. He aims at Dr. Schwartzinger.

Marvin
(hisses) Die!

Dr. Schwartzinger suddenly sees him and gasps in fear, flicking the flask out of his hands. Camera close up on flask – it flies slowly, spinning through the air. “Nooooooooooooo,” someone yells in slow motion. The flask makes its way to the ground. It hits, bounces, but does not break.

At that moment a **gunshot** rings out, still in slow motion (er... “sound”). We see Marvin’s hand, holding the gun. It falls. We see Proth’s gun barrel, smoking. Then Marvin again: he is dead. All that was in slow motion.

Camera on Dr. Schwartzinger. He looks at dead Marvin. Then at the unbroken flask. He is panting and somewhat in shock. Then he looks at Proth and Marnie.

Proth
(*slowly*) Would that have killed us? (*meaning the flask*)

Dr. Schwartzinger
If you had ran, probably only me.

Marnie
How do we destroy it?

Proth looks at Marnie and begins to say something. She stares back at him, determined. There are a few moments of mental struggle. Proth then concedes; he turns and looks questioningly at Dr. Schwartzinger.

Dr. Schwartzinger
(*pauses, then sighs*) It’s just a bunch of organic molecules, anything... A fire. Burn it, and it will die.

Proth
What about Marvin?

Dr. Schwartzinger
(*slowly, nervously, chuckles*) He’s just organic molecules...

Marnie
Fine. We’ll cremate them both.

Cut to a fire, as dusk comes on. It is right outside the woods. Around it stand Marnie, Proth and Dr. Schwartzinger. In it are Marvin and an unstoppered flask. Proth still has his gun out, loosely aimed at the doctor.

Dr. Schwartzinger
Well, look, it is done. Surely you are not going to kill me too?

Proth and Marnie exchange glances.

Proth

Not at this point. You might as well leave.

Dr. Schwartzinger turns and begins walking back into the woods.

Marnie

Where are you going?

Dr. Schwartzinger

To get my car.

Proth and Marnie watch him disappear into the blackness of the forest. They tend to the fire.
Fade out.

Scene 15 – The killer last scene

Camera sees darkness. Then there is light. The Camera sees the light. It is good. Those of you biblical scholars may recognize the last few sentences, borrowed with little alteration. To the rest of you they are nothing more than something you would expect in a nursery school book. But I digress, for in the light the Camera sees the good Doctor Schwartzinger's basement. Ah, but then a shadow blocks the holy light, and down from above, eventually passing in front of the camera, comes the doctor himself. He moves over to his work bench. At this point to camera is jarred from its previously fixed position to focus closely on what Dr. Schwatzinger picks up: a flask, full of something, that reads, "Original Sample."

Fade out.

CREDITS